One Snowshoe
presents

# Kodomo wa Wakatte Agenai

by Tajima Rettou


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# TAJIMA RETTOU

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Gender: Female

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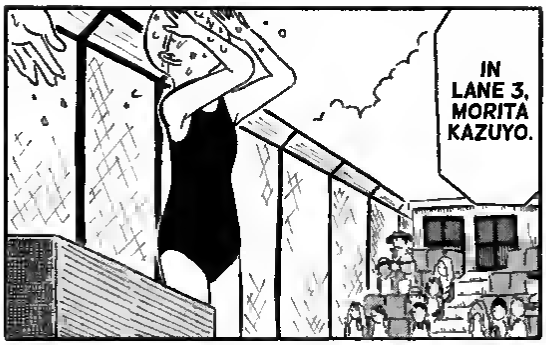
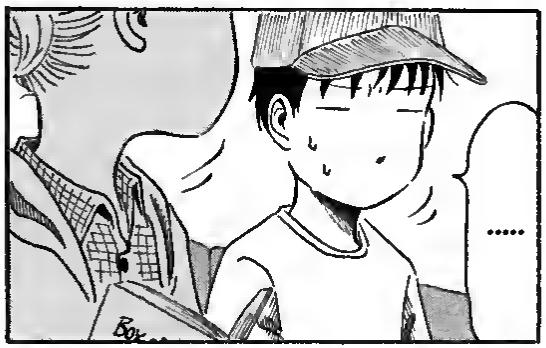
# 4.
# LAUGHING WHILE SWIMMING


IN LANE 3, MORITA KAZUYO.

Box of Light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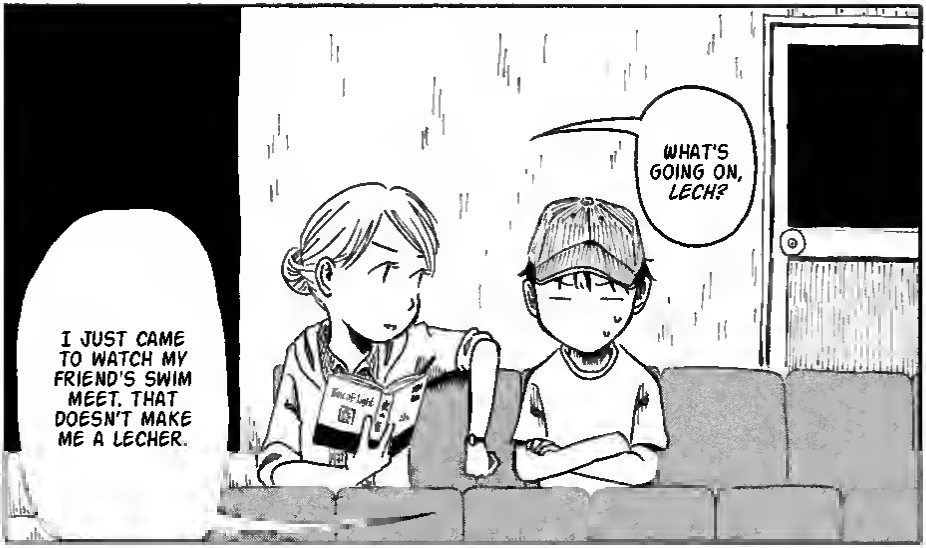
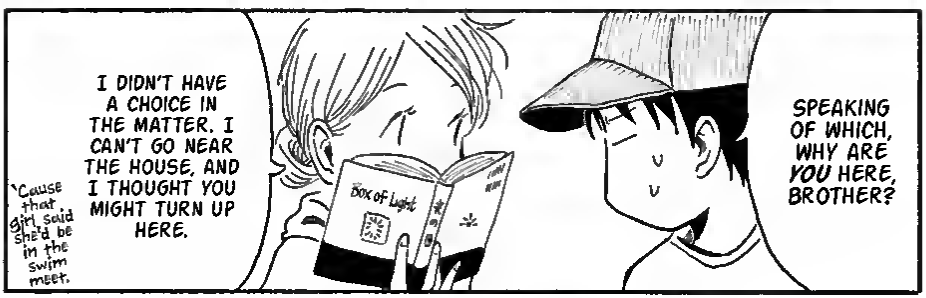
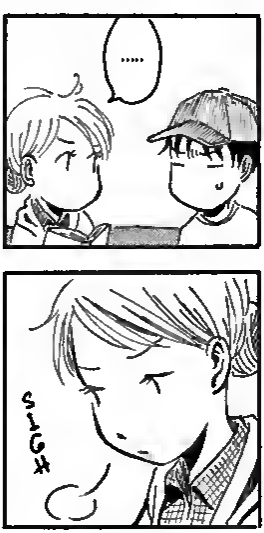
IN LANE 1, TANAKA NAOKO.
IN LANE 2, KOSAKAI KAZUKO.
Come on, Kazuuuu!


I JUST CAME TO WATCH MY FRIEND'S SWIM MEET. THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME A LECHER.
WHAT'S GOING ON, LECH?


'Cause that girl said she'd be in the swim meet.
I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER. I CAN'T GO NEAR THE HOUSE, AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT TURN UP HERE.
Box of Light
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHY ARE YOU HERE, BROTHER?

HEY, ARE ANY BOYS GONNA BE SWIMMING IN THIS THING?
RAW! RAW!
WHO'S THE LECH NOW?!


.....
SIGH

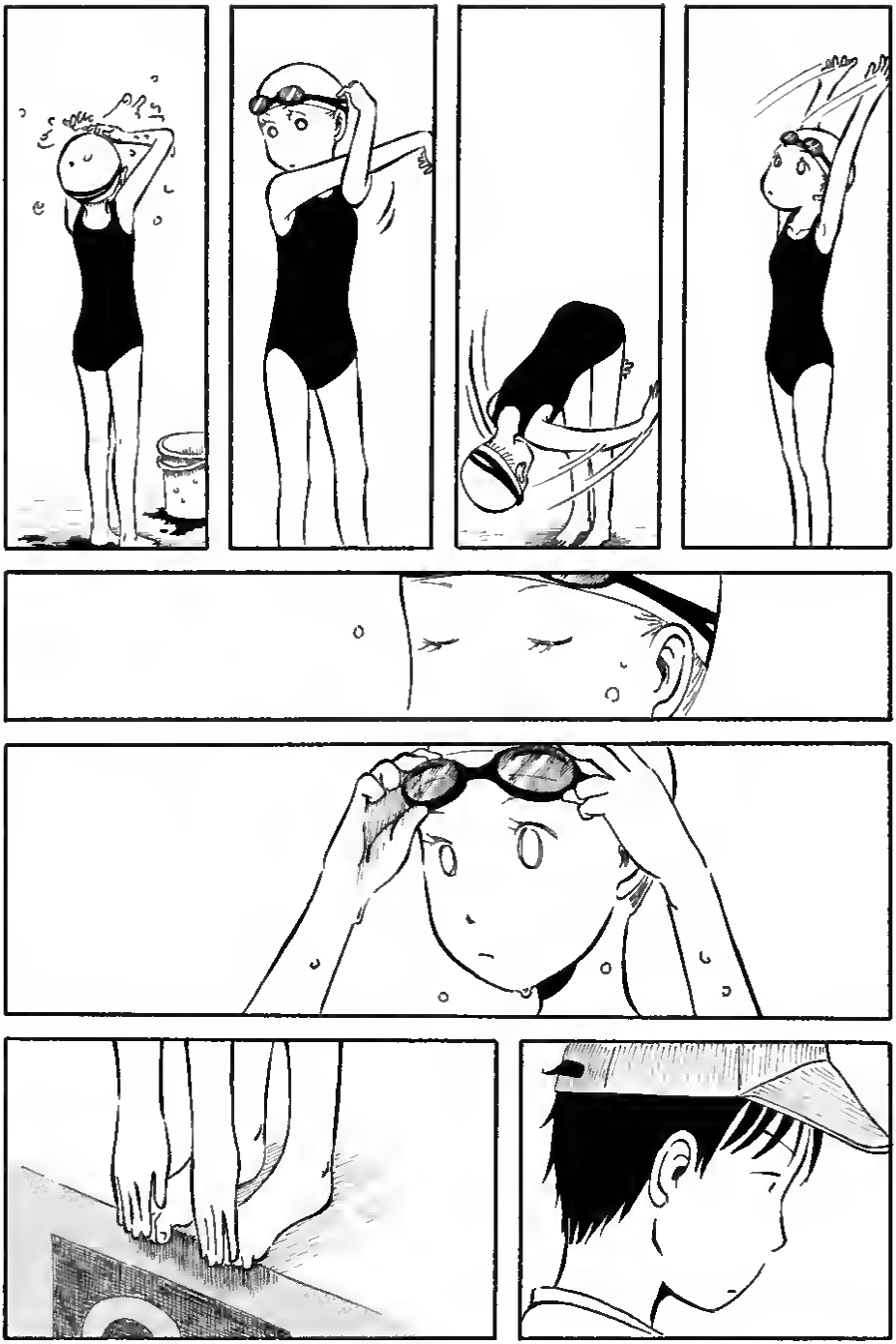
HUH? WHY? DIO YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM ME? SHOULON'T YOU BE INVESTIGATING THAT CULT TO FIND SAKUTA-SAN'S FATHER?

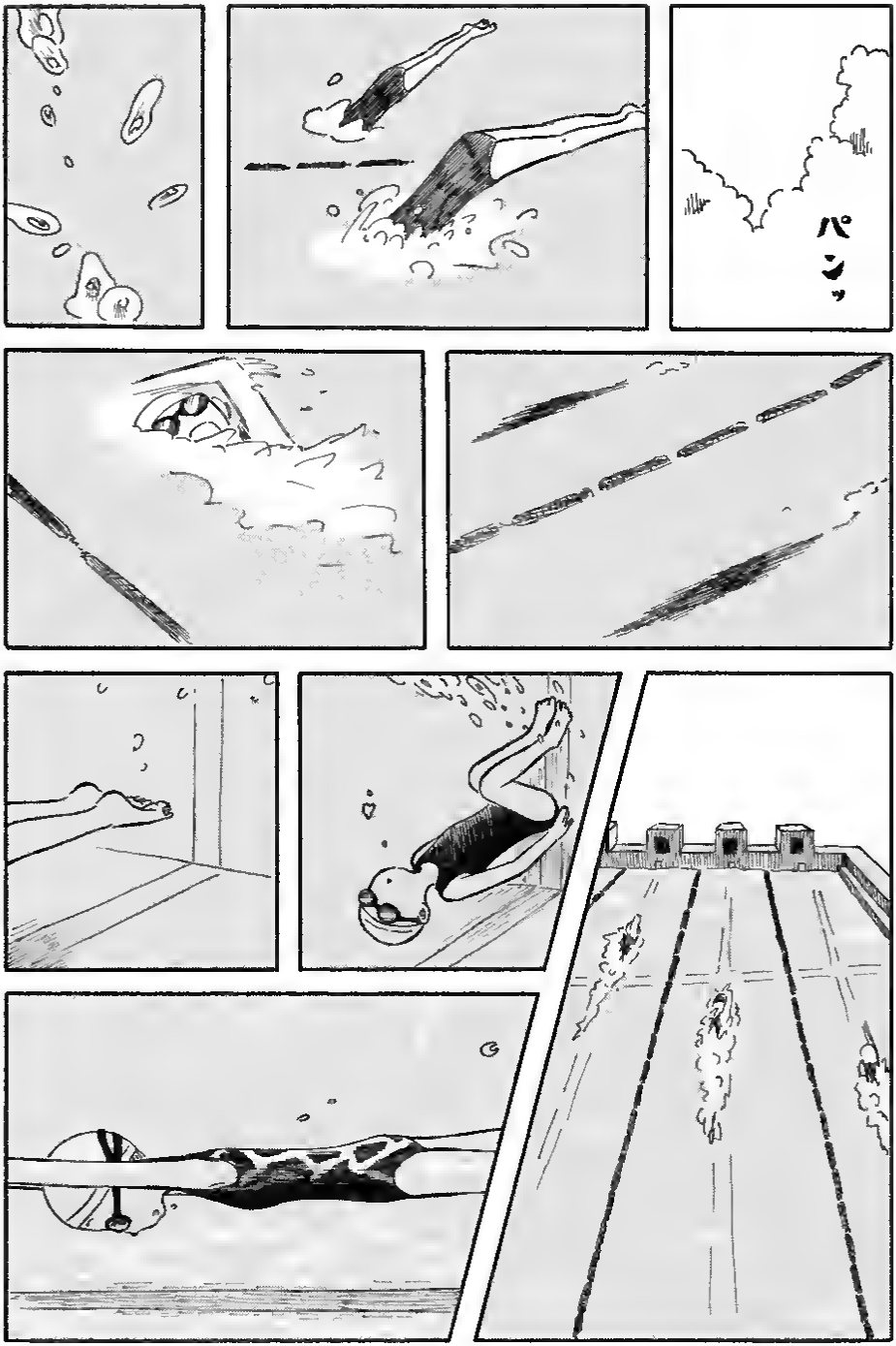
HOW IS THAT THE SHOCKING PART?!
THEY CAME TO YOU?!
JUST AFTER YOU TWO LEFT, ANOTHER CLIENT ARRIVED AND ASKED ME TO LOCATE SOMEONE.
EVERYTHING'S TURNED INTO A MESS THOUGH.
YEP. THAT'S THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT.
.....
THIS IS THE PLACE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SURPRISED! SO ACT SURPRISED, DAMN IT!!
AH.
1 Ah
AND THE PERSON THEY WANT ME TO LOCATE IS THEIR VERY OWN FOUNDER, WHO SEEMS TO HAVE MADE OFF WITH A GOOD DEAL OF THEIR MONEY.
THE REAL SURPRISE IS WHAT COMES NEXT. THE CLIENT WAS THAT CULT, THE BOX OF LIGHT.
AND I SUPPOSE NEXT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME THAT THAT FOUNDER IS ACTUALLY SAKUTA-SAN'S FATHER?

STOP UNDER-ESTIMATING YOUR BIG BROTHER!
DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU WONDER WHY THEY WOULD TAKE SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO A CRUMMY DETECTIVE LIKE YOU?
YOU CAME TO ME WITH A CASE YOUR-SELF!
BIG DEAL.
THAT'S A BIG DEAL
?
HENCE MY SUR-PRISE. SEE?
'BOUT TIME YOU GOT A BEAT-ING.
WHY WOULD PERFECT STRANGERS LIKE THAT CHOOSE YOU INSTEAD OF A DETECTIVE WITH A MORE ESTABLISHED RECORD?
BUT THESE CLIENTS DON'T SHARE A BOND OF BLOOD WITH YOU. THEY DON'T EVEN APPEAR TO BE MEMBERS OF YOUR SHOPPING DISTRICT OR NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS.
WELL, YEAH. BUT HAD I KNOWN HOW FAR YOUR CAREER AS A DETECTIVE HAD ACTUALLY PROGRESSED, I'D NEVER HAVE SUG-GESTED YOU.
THE CLIENT DOESN'T WANT THIS FOUNDER FOUND.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS.
I'M NOT SAYING ANY OF THIS TO MAKE FUN OF YOU.
.....

WHICH MEANS THE REALLY SUSPICIOUS PERSON HERE BECOMES...
BUT SIMPLY THAT HE AND THE MONEY HAPPENED TO DISAPPEAR AT THE SAME TIME.
MAYBE IT'S NOT THE CASE THAT THEIR FOUNDER FLED WITH THE MONEY,
HENCE WHY THEY MIGHT APPROACH A DETECTIVE WITH SUCH A MEAGER RESUME.
THE LIKELIHOOO OF SOMEONE MERELY MAKING OFF WITH THE MONEY IS STILL MUCH HIGHER...
HEY, HEY! IT'S JUST A POSSI-BILITY...
SEE? I'M NOT THE ONE MAKING LIGHT OF YOU. THEY ARE.
!
MY CLIENT...?
I'M GLAD I CAME TO SEE YOU.
YEAH. THANKS, SHOU-CHAN.

WELL, THERE AREN'T GOING TO BE ANY SWIMMER BOYS, ARE THERE?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WATCH?
.....
BE-SIDES,
.....
ADIEU!
YOUR BIG BROTHER OOESN'T HAVE THAT KINO OF FREE TIME.
IN LANE 3, OOTAKE MAKO.
!
IN LANE 2, SAKUTA MINAMI.
IN LANE 1, SAIKI SHI-GEMI.

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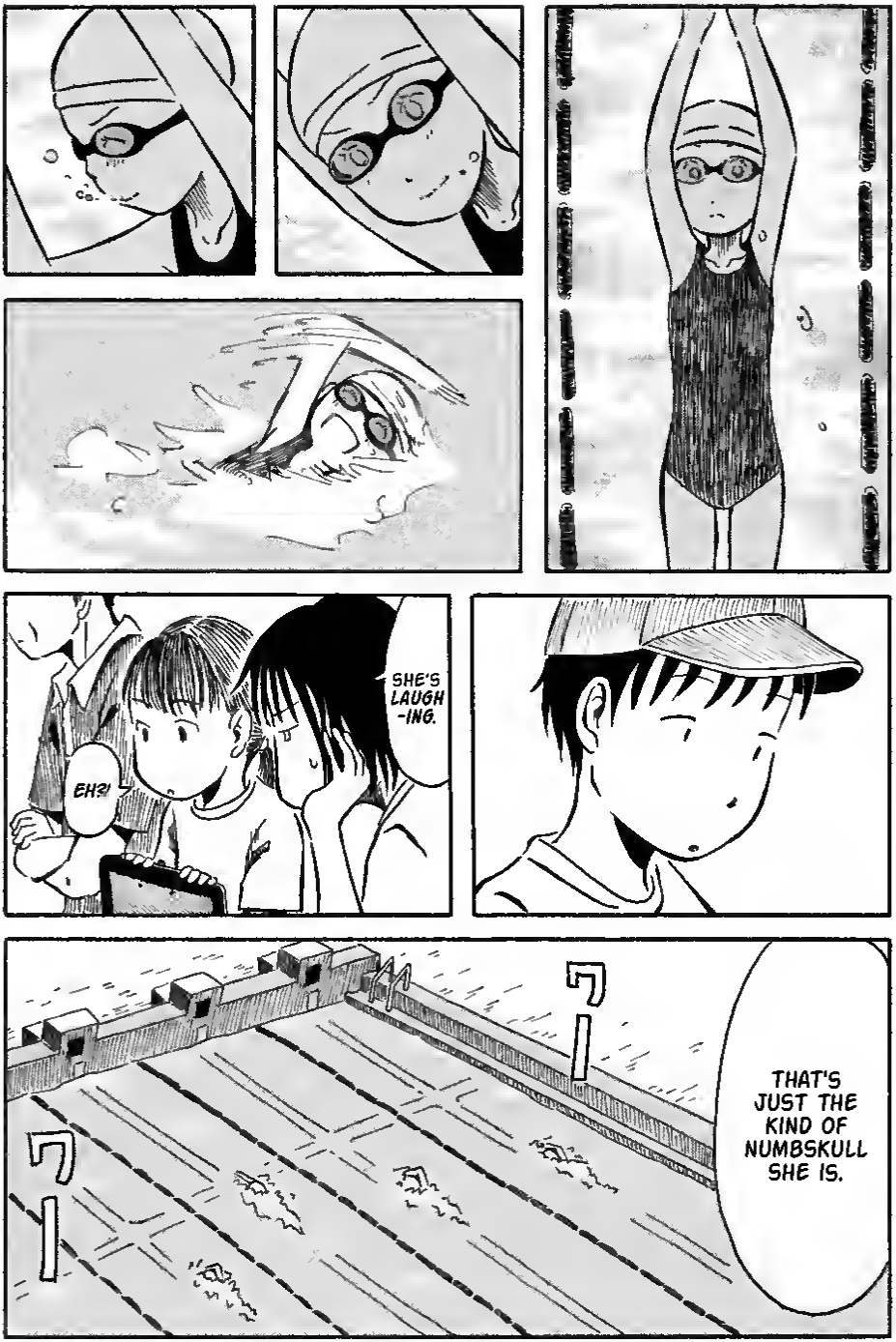
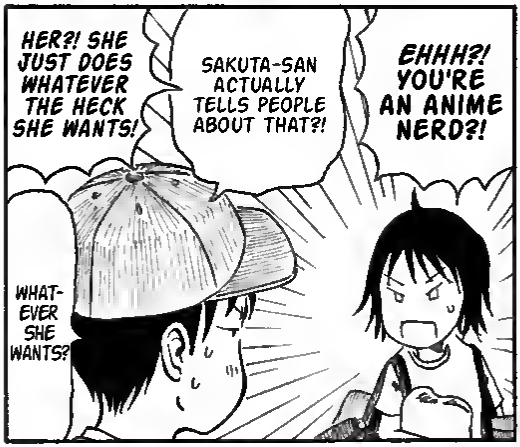
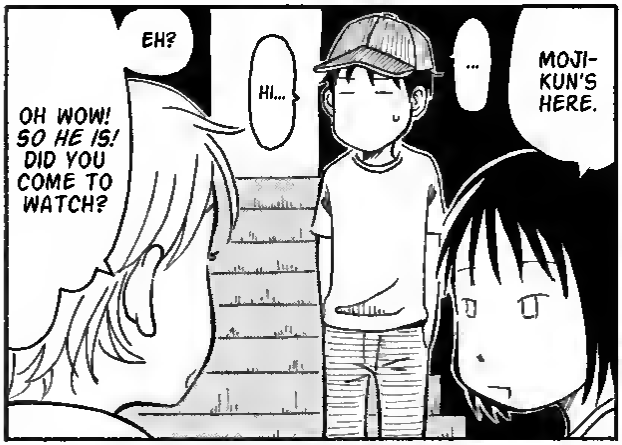

EH?!
SHE'S LAUGH-ING.
THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF NUMBSKULL SHE IS.

PER-SONAL RE-CORD!
YOU CAN'T CALL ME SLACKER SAKUTA ANYMORE!
Though it's kinda grown on me.
...I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKED US CALLING YOU THAT...
'KAY!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO BAD IN PRACTICE YET SO GOOD IN THE REAL THING?
W-
WOW.
.....
HUH?
MOJI-KUN, THAT YOU?
...

...ERK!
SO YOU'RE ON THE SWIM TEAM TOO, MIYAJIMA-SAN?
LEAVING ALREADY?
WHO WERE YOU HERE TO ROOT FOR?
COULD IT BE SAKU?
SHE IS THE ONLY SECOND YEAR WHO RACED.


HER?! SHE JUST DOES WHATEVER THE HECK SHE WANTS!
SAKUTA-SAN ACTUALLY TELLS PEOPLE ABOUT THAT?!
EHHH?! YOU'RE AN ANIME NERD?!
WHAT-EVER SHE WANTS?

WE JUST MET RECENTLY HAPPEN TO SHARE A HOBBY..
I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU KNEW SAKU, MOJI-KUN.

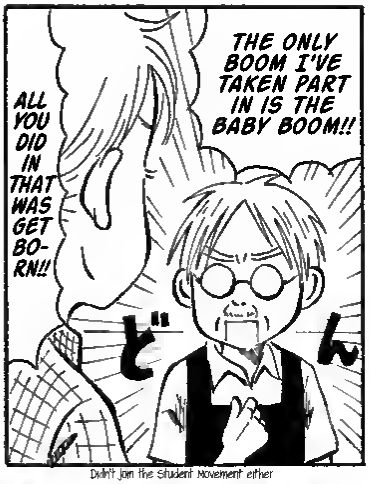

EH?
OH WOW! SO HE IS! DID YOU COME TO WATCH?
HI...
...
MOJI-KUN'S HERE.

THANKS FOR GRAB-BING MY STUFF!
MIYA-CHAN!
AH, SAKU.

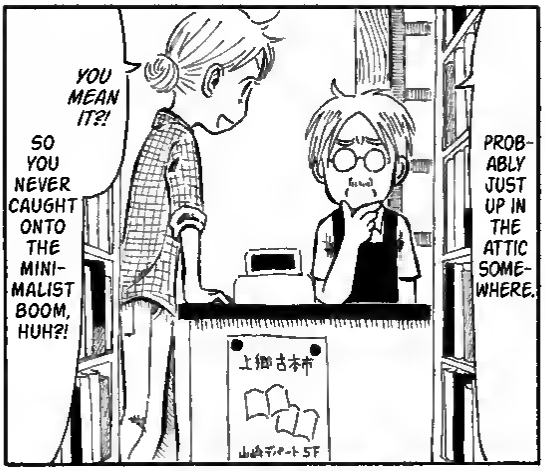
AH!
OH YEAH. TO-DAY...
HEY MOJI-KUN! I'M GONNA WATCH THAT DVD YOU LENT ME TOOAY!
HEY YOU.
THAT'S WHY YOU SWAM SO WELL TODAY?
I SEE... I GUESS I'M GLAO I COULO HELP...
I THOUGHT I'O OO BETTER IN THE MEET IF I HAO A TREAT TO LOOK FOR-WARO TO. I'VE REALLY BEEN HOLO-ING BACK!
.....
MY BROTHER CAME TO OUR SWIM TOOAY. EMS THE OUGHT OUT.
SEEMS THAT YOUR FATHER MAY BE THEIR FOUNDER, MAY VE TAKEN THEIR ONEY, AND MA HAVE RAN OFF WITH IT. OH, AND THEY DON'T HAVE A SINGLE CLUE WHERE HE MIGHT BE.
TODAY...
WHAT ABOUT TODAY?
THANK YOU!
EH?
SEE YA!
AH,
OKAY.
TOOAY... YOU WERE PRETTY COOL!

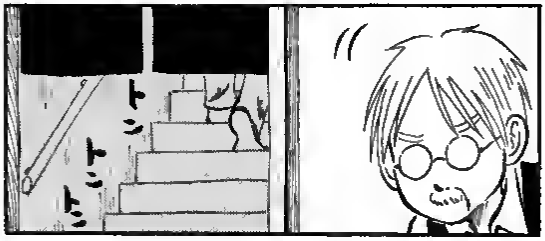
WHEN I WAS BUTTERING? WHAT?
WHEN YOU WERE MUTTERING ABOUT THAT PERSONAL THING BEFORE, DID YOU MEAN MOJI?
HE'S IN YOUR CLASS? I HAD NO IDEA.
WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS.
BY THE WAY, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU KNEW MOJI-KUN, MIYA-CHAN.
...BUT IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD.
HE HE HE
HE SAID I WAS COOL!
I HOPE YOU'RE OKAY, BROTHER.
WHAT A GIANT MESS.
HER FATHER IS THE FOUNDER...
.....

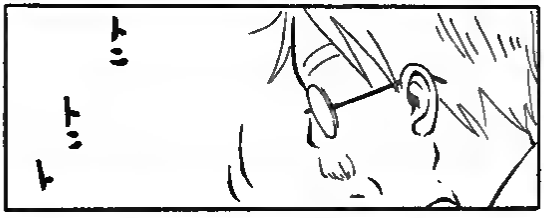
.....
Harimoto Used Books
YOU WROTE THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
THE GLEAMING OCEAN LEGEND
Box of Light
UWAH!
ZEN-SAN, QUESTION.
SEE, I FIGURE THAT IF I SCROUNGE THROUGH YOUR CONNEC-TIONS, MAYBE I'LL HIT ON SOME-THING...
DO YOU STILL HAVE ANYTHING FROM WHEN YOU WROTE THIS? INTERVIEWS AND THE LIKE?
YEAH, I WROTE IT! BUT...
Shhh!
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU USED TO BE A GHOSTWRITER A WHILE BACK, DIDN'TCHA?
I KNOW YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WROTE IT, ZEN-SAN.
WOW, HAVEN'T SEEN A BOOK LIKE THIS IN...

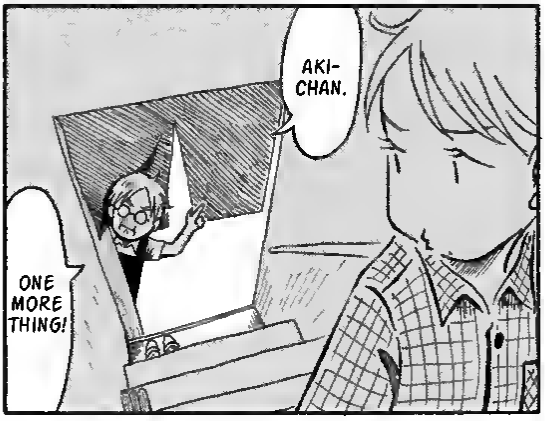



Didn't join the Student Movement either

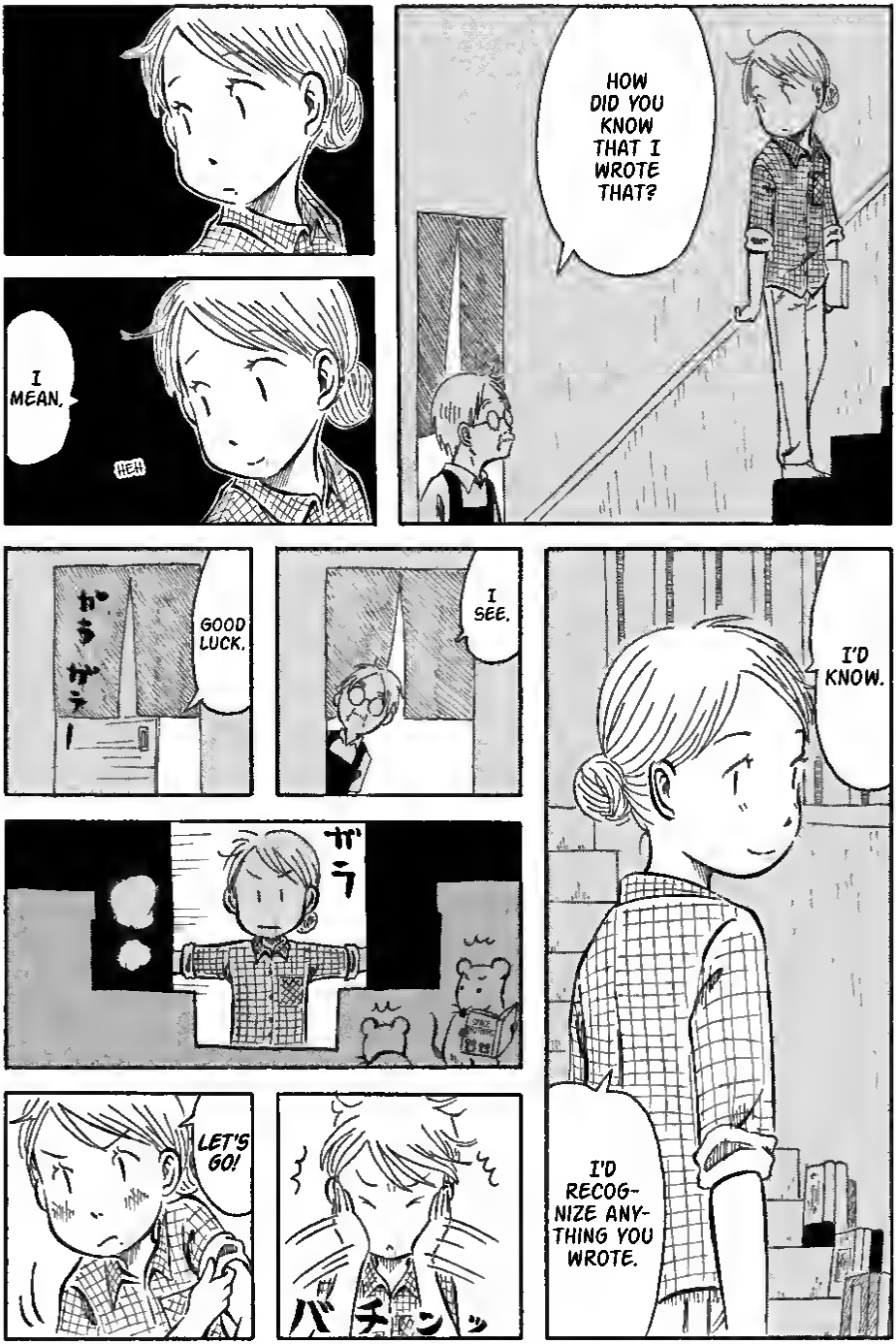


HEY AKI-CHAN WHILE YOU'RE LOOKING COULD YOU SEE IF THERE'S A BOOK UP THERE ON THE JAPANESE JEWISH COM-MON ANCESTRY HYPOTHESIS?
IT'LL COST YA BIG TIME!
THEN IT'S TIME I START COLLECT-ING THAT RENT YOU OWE ME!
...UM, SEE YA!
Jeez! Why would you even have a crazy book like that?


HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT I WROTE THAT?
I MEAN,
HEH
GOOD LUCK.
がらがら
I SEE.
I'D KNOW.
I'D RECOG-NIZE ANY-THING YOU WROTE.
ガラ
LET'S GO!
バチンッ

# TRANSLATION NOTES:

**Page 63:** The "1 Ah" box is a reference to the Fuji TV show *Hey! Spring of Trivia* (トリビアの泉), a show in which viewers would submit shocking trivia to win prizes. Celebrity panelists would indicate their degree of surprise by pushing a button. Note that in Japanese, the syllable of surprise is "Eh" and not "Ah." "1 Eh/Ah" would be an extremely low score.

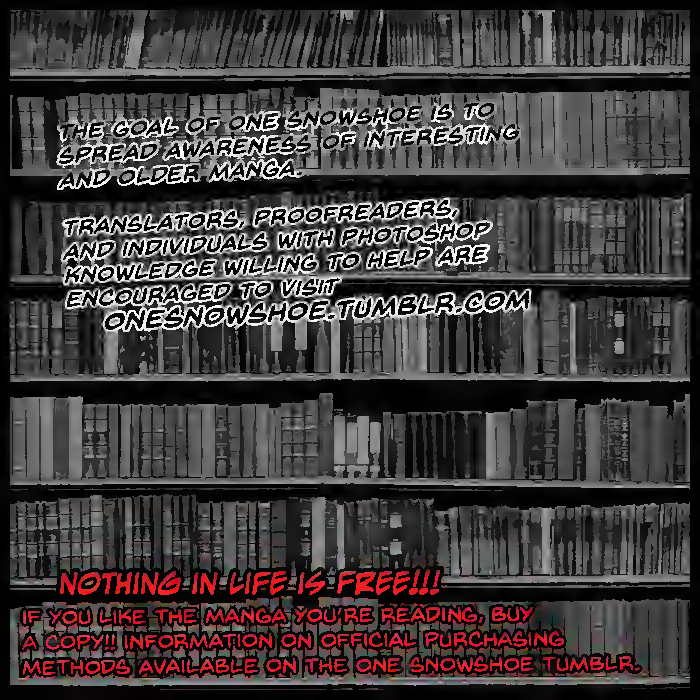
**Page 73:** In the first panel, Sakuta puts her finger under her nose while sticking her tongue out. In the original manga, the author has actually noted himself on the page that this is a deliberate reference to the way that Mihara Sanpei showed his embarrassment in the long-running Kodansha manga *Tsurikichi Sanpei*, a comedy-sports series about a young boy learning how to fish.

**Page 73:** In the third panel, Miya-chan asks Sakuta about the "personal thing" ("shiji," 私事) she mentioned in chapter 2 while stomping up and down the hallway. Sakuta, who has apparently completely forgotten about this in her generally carefree way, misinterprets the homonym as "directions" ("shiji," 指示). I've chosen to turn this into a pronunciation-based joke that works a little better in English rather than render any of the literal meaning.

**Page 75:** The Student Movement referred to in the free text on page refers to the series of protests in 1960's Japan, arguably first centering on a U.S.-Japan treaty in which the U.S. was permitted to establish various military bases in the country before shifting into other economic, feminist, and leftist concerns.

**Page 75:** The idea of the Japanese-Jewish Common Ancestry Hypothesis first emerged in the 17th century as a theory that the Japanese people were one of the lost tribes of Israel.

**Page 76:** The mice are reading *Space Brothers*, the long-running manga by Koyama Chuuya. It was published in the same Kodansha *Morning* serial as *Kodomo wa Wakatte Agenai*.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